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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,928	02/03/2004	Tomaz Dopico Varela	60,130-2033/01MRA0197	1651
26096	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C. 400 WEST MAPLE ROAD SUITE 350 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			STORMER, RUSSELL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/770,928

Applicant(s)

VARELA, TOMAZ DOPICO

Examiner

Russell D. Stormer

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/3/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Specification

1. The status of the parent application SN 09/940106, which is referenced in the preliminary amendment, should be updated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 10 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Mogford et al.

The knuckle piece 10 and the axle each include interlocking features, and the knuckle piece is considered to be an axle mounting component.

With respect to claim 16, the mounting piece 10 has generally concave annular surfaces 13 as shown in figure 5.

4. Claims 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Pinch et al.

The axle mounting component 46a includes an interlocking feature in hole 68A, and the axle tube includes an interlocking protrusion 70 extending into the hole.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty et al.

Dougherty et al discloses an axle assembly comprising an axle member 12 and a mounting component or brake flange 12 joined by interlocking features shown as splines. The axle is not a tubular member, and the mounting component is not a bearing shoulder sleeve.

For the axle to be of a tubular design would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art to reduce the weight of the axle, as is well-known, in applications in which a great strength is not required of the axle in its intended use. Forming the axle as a tubular member would not depart from the overall teachings of Dougherty et al.

With respect to claim 11, to use the coupling assembly of the splines to join a bearing shoulder sleeve to the axle, or to substitute a bearing shoulder sleeve for the brake flange would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art based on the intended use of the axle assembly.

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7. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty et al in view of Swars.

The axle assembly of Dougherty et al does not include a material between the mounting member and the outer wall of the axle.

Swars teaches the use of a coating material between a mounting or mounted member 1 and the tubular member 2 to which the first member is mounted. See lines 64-69 of column 2 and lines 1-60 of column 3. From this teaching it would have been obvious to provide a material between the mounting member and the axle of Dougherty et al in order to promote better adhesion between the two members, or to prevent galvanic corrosion between the two members should be they made of different metals (lines 35-38 of column 3 of Dougherty et al).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references show other axle assemblies.

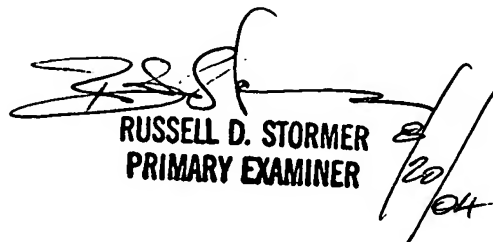
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (703) 308-3768. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/20/04


RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER 8/20/04